



Date: September 29, 2022

To: Adam Trombley, Chief of Staff

Thru: Amy Demboski, Municipal Manager

From: Alexis Johnson, Homeless Coordinator

Subject: Admin Guidance for ECWS Plan

Adam,

I am requesting immediate guidance on possible paths forward for the Anchorage Assembly's Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering Plan. As of now, it appears there are significant challenges associated with the Assembly's Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering Plan. Not only would I like to address the issues, but I am also requesting immediate guidance from the administration on a path forward to ensure stability and continuity for our city's most vulnerable population.

Issue 1: After discussing with the Housing Services Division and the onsite manager (OSM) for Golden Lion and Sullivan Arena (Henning Inc.), there is a high level of concern for the current 150-person capacity at the Sullivan Arena. Henning is requesting a capacity increase of 150 to a total of 300 people. In regards to the Golden Lion, the Health Department now knows that M&O needs more than a week of lead time to address the mechanical repairs at the Golden Lion. I have an attached memo from Henning outlining the repairs.

I am requesting guidance from the Administration on getting approval for moving beyond 150 surge capacity at the Sullivan Arena. We currently have 400 cots ready to be deployed for the Sullivan Arena, if the need arises.

Possible Paths Forward: Engage the Assembly to increase capacity at Sullivan Arena. Currently, we cannot take more than 150 people at the Sullivan Arena as outlined in Title 16.120 and the passed and approved Assembly Resolution. This creates barriers for people wishing to access emergency cold weather shelter. If the capacity cannot be increased, my concern is we will not have adequate low-barrier shelter. This decision could result in loss of life when temperatures drop below freezing.

Issue 2: Henning is requesting additional lead time to turn on the Golden Lion to ensure that the building is safe. M&O has expressed a need for repairs on roughly 40 toilets in the Golden Lion Hotel, as well as the need to rekey the doors, ensure that all the fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Until these repairs are made, a fire inspection cannot be completed and therefore the emergency shelter

cannot be occupied.

Issue 3: From my understanding, there is confusion in regards to the Use of the Golden Lion. I foresee potential challenges with grants and contracts since there are documents interchanging the words “housing” vs. “emergency sheltering” vs. “housing units.”

Possible Paths Forward: As of right now, our department is moving forward with the Assembly’s Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering Plan. However, there will be significant delays according to Henning Inc., MOA M&O, Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department’s Fire Inspection Division, and Use designation. I understand there is a legal opinion currently being drafted which addresses some of these challenges in regards to the Golden Lion. Please inform me when legal finalizes their memo so I know how to proceed.

Alexis Johnson
Housing & Homeless Coordinator



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September 28, 2022

Henning, Inc requests an authorization for a surge capacity of 300 people at the congregate shelter at the Sullivan Arena starting October 1, 2022.

We are also requesting a delay in opening the non-congregate shelter at the Golden Lion location pending the resolution of a number of maintenance and repairs items including, but not limited, to:

- bathroom repairs
- replacement of batteries in fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- rekeying of building and interior doors, and
- a passing fire inspection in accordance with AFD Policy 17-10 and the AMC 16.120 emergency shelter license application.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shawn Catherine Hays
Executive Director